* State Governments have been asked to take necessary measures to prevent child marriages in their States

* The proposal for amendment to the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929, as introduced in the Parliament in 2004, is presently under consideration of a Parliamentary Standing Committee

* NHRC is also taking steps at its level to address the issue

* A strong media campaign is being launched by the Department of Women and Child Development to target prevention of child marriages

* In 2004-05 the National Commission for Women has asked the State Governments to take steps to curb child marriages. The Commission has also recently asked the State Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh where child marriages have been reported around Akshaya Teej to take earnest steps to create awareness against child marriage and to take strong administrative action to prevent child marriages

* The States have also been requested to furnish the details of incidence of child marriages in their States, number of cases, efforts made by the State Government and the NGOs working in the area.

Financial irregularities in IITs

683. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact tha CAG in its latest report pointed out financial irregularities in IITs resulting in loss of several crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that IITs misinterpreted his Ministry's order on revision of pay scales and thereby over-paying crores of rupees to its staff; and

(d) if so, what are the other irregularities pointed out by CAG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report for the year 2003-04

which has been prepared for submission to the President under Article 51 of the Constitution have made certain observations regarding overpayment of pay, due to misinterpretation of Government orders by IITs, alleged irregular payment of bonus to reportedly non-eligible employees; short recovery of licence fee due to non implementation of revised rate of recovery of licence fee in respect of quarters allotted to employees of IIT Bombay; and non acceptance of the offer of the lower pre-qualified tenderer for the construction of a lecture hall complex in IIT Kharagpur.

Accessibility of CBSE offices

684. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that offices of the Central Board of Secondary Education are not easily accessible to students and parents;

(b) the number of the regional offices of CBSE;

(c) what steps would be taken to make the CBSE more accessible to people;

(d) whether the CBSE would respond to the queries online; and

(e) the steps proposed to make the CBSE more pro-active to students interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. The officers and staff of CBSE are easily accessible to the students and parents.

(b) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has six Regional Offices in the country situated at Delhi, Chandigarh, Chennai, Ajmer, Allahabad and Guwahati.

(c) Regional Officers and other officials who are requested to interact with the public have been directed to be easily accessible to all persons seeking their attention.

(d) CBSE has provided for responding to online queries through its Helpline programme.